

Plan to split Calif. into 3 states to be on Nov. ballot

By John Myers, Los Angeles Times

California's 168-year run as a single entity, hugging the continent's edge for hundreds of miles and sprawling east across mountains and desert, could come to an end next year – as a controversial plan to split the Golden State into three new jurisdictions qualified Tuesday for the Nov. 6 ballot.

If a majority of voters who cast ballots agree, a long and contentious process would begin for three separate states to take the place of California, with one primarily centered around Los Angeles and the other two divvying up the counties to the north and south. Completion of the radical plan – far from certain, given its many hurdles at judicial, state and federal levels – would make history.

It would be the first division of an existing U.S. state since the creation of West Virginia in 1863.

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